

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
HEW-04 L-03 /098 W
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R 221525Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8549
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127537

1. FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) DELEGATION TO 1978 ILO CONFERENCE WILL CONSIST OF MAJOR GENERAL HENRY ADEFOPE, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR; MR. E. O. OLOWU, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOR; AND MR. BENJAMIN E. UKPABI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF LABOR. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UKPABI RUNS THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR SIDE FOR NIGERIA AND BOTH COMMISSIONER AND PERM SEC WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW HIS GUIDANCE AT ILO CONFERENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, UKPABI HAS DEPARTED LAGOS FOR LEAVE BEFORE GOING TO GENEVA TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AND THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS REFTEL WITH HIM. EMBOFF DID MEET WITH UKPABI LAST WEEK FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR SCENE AND FORTHCOMING ILO CONFERENCE. UKPABI CONTINUES TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO USG POSITION, BUT COMMENTED

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THAT QUACKENBUSH OF US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAS FAMILIAR WITH LIMITS NIGERIAN FLEXIBILITY. UKPABI FEELS THAT NIGERIAN DELEGATION AND HE IN PARTICULAR CAN PROVIDE A BRIDGE BETWEEN U.S. VIEWS AND MORE EXTREMIST POSITIONS. THEREFORE, WHILE WE SEE NO VIRTUE AT THIS POINT IN MAKING DEMARCHE PROPOSED REFTEL SINCE HE IS GONE, WE RECOMMEND THAT U.S.

MISSION IN GENEVA WORK CLOSELY WITH UKPABI IN BOTH
OBTAINING INFORMATION AND SEEKING TO INFLUENCE
DECISIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO U.S.

3. WORKERS' DELEGATES WITLL BE H.A. SUNMONU,
PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS, AND
MR. JONAS ABAM, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE DOCKWORKERS
UNION. BOTH ARE AVOWED LEFTISTS AND UNLIKELY TO
SUPPORT U.S. POSITION UNLESS PRESSURED TO DO SO
BY UKPABI AND COMMISSIONER.

4. EMPLOYERS' REP HAS NOT BEEN NAMED BUT WE
EXPECT HE WILL TEND TO FOLLOW UKPABI'S GUIDANCE
ON ISSUES SUCH AS THOSE DISCUSSED REFTTEL.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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